

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal, Vice-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Morin-Bello, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee:

I am a member of the ReSisters, and a resident of Norwalk, CT.

I am writing to express my support of S.B. No. 1064, H.B. No. 5004, S.J. No. 29, and H.J. No. 1. I also conditionally support S.B. No. 1057 and H.B. No. 6693.

I support SB1057, with the recommendation there is at least 2 weeks of early voting and there is funding for educating voters about early voting. I support HB6693, with the recommendation that the public disclosure of absentee ballot applications is NOT necessary and is of no benefit to the voter.

To be an American citizen means having the right to vote. It is important now that we expand ballot access by allowing vote in person on days prior to Election Day as well as allowing no-excuse absentee voting.

Many people in our country are working 2-3 jobs just to make ends meet. Their working hours may prevent them from getting to the poll on election day. Furthermore, under the current laws for absentee voting, they do not qualify for an absentee ballot. Without the possibility of Early Voting or No Excuse Absentee their important voices are silenced in our current electoral system.

CT Voters have spoken. I request the legislature to implement early voting.

- We need at least 14 days of early voting, including 2 weekends.
- Early voting should apply to all elections - general, special, municipal, and referendums.
- Allow same day registration during early voting period.
- The number of locations should reflect the number of residents eligible to vote in the town.
- Locations for the elderly and the disabled populations that are accessible by public transportation.

With regards to the placing of a referendum on the ballot in 2024 to give voters the chance to weigh in on No Excuse Absentee Voting, I firmly support this. The 2020 election turnout proved that the ability to vote by absentee ballot significantly increases the percentage of citizens participating in our democracy. Voting should be made available so all voices can be heard.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,
Jody Kesten
46 Birchside Drive
Norwalk

